



PLACER COUNTY
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CORONER-MARSHAL



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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: May 4, 2005
Date/Time of Occurrence: May 3, 2005 9:30 pm
Nature of Call: Commercial/Residential Burglar arrested
Location of Call: Boatworks Mall, Tahoe City
Case Number: 05-6356
Released by: Lt. John Addoms (530) 581-6315

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

On 5/3/05 at about 9:30 pm, Placer County Sheriff's investigators executed a search warrant at the home of Mario Martinez-Ortiz, 33, of Kings Beach and subsequently arrested him for multiple burglaries occurring over a period of years. The investigation began recently when witnesses reported seeing Martinez-Ortiz in possession of stolen property taken from a burglary to a business in the Boatworks Mall in Tahoe City years earlier. The investigators concluded that Martinez-Ortiz worked maintenance in the mall and between 2001 and 2004 committed at least 7 burglaries to various businesses in the mall, committed at least one burglary to a car parked at the mall, and committed a burglary to a residence in Dollar Point in Tahoe City.

Investigators determined that Martinez-Ortiz was an opportunist; while at work, he would look for occasions when a closed business left a door unlocked or a window open and used the discovery to make entry. In 2002, Martinez-Ortiz was helping clean a house on Edgewater Drive in Dollar Point subdivision and intentionally unlocked a door so that he could return and make entry.

Detectives estimate that he stole \$30,000 to \$50,000 worth of property during the 9 identified burglaries and about \$5,000 worth of the property was recovered during the search of his home. The property Martinez-Ortiz stole included cash, furniture, clothing, and televisions.

During the arrest, Martinez-Ortiz was also found in possession of counterfeit immigration documents.

Martinez-Ortiz was booked at the Placer County Jail on charges of Burglary, Grand Theft, Possession of Stolen Property, and Possession of False Resident Alien Documents. Placer County Court Commissioner Trilla Bahrke was briefed on the charges and ordered that Martinez-Ortiz be held without bail. Additionally, a federal Immigration hold has been placed on him. Martinez-Ortiz is scheduled to be arraigned in the Superior Court in Tahoe City on 5/5/05 at 10:00 am.



Mario Martinez-Ortiz

**Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's
Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>**